



Simple Field Calculations

You need to label features on your layout and the only source for the needed label is found as part of another value in the table.

For example, part of a PIN number.

Jerome County labels maps for appraisers with the 11th-14th numbers of the PIN number.

So, if the PIN reads RP07S27E270521A the label would be 0521.

How do you extract the desired numbers to use as our label?

The Field Calculator is the tool to use.

The Field Calculator is a powerful tool for editing tables or for more advanced calculations using Visual Basic.

I will show you how to use the String function Mid, which is used to remove a specific consecutive string of characters.

First I will add a field with empty cell values to populate the cells with the new values.

With an attribute table open go to Options and then choose Add Field.

In the dialog name the field.

In this case I'll use PIN_Label

For Type choose Text, this allows the cell value to be numbers or letters.

Since I know the resulting label is only 4 characters, for length type in 4.

Limiting the length of the field will act as a quality control so longer numbers are excluded from entry.

Click OK.

Before calculating the field values I'll need to start an edit session.

I could calculate outside of an edit session but then all the changes would be permanent.

If I made a mistake I would then have to delete the field and start over.

Click on Editor on the Edit Toolbar.

Choose Start Editing.

In the dialog choose the appropriate layer for editing.

Click OK.

If you get a second dialog choose Start Editing.

The column headings that are available to be edited will display white.

Right-click on the Pin_Label field heading.

From the drop-down select Calculate Values.

The Field Calculator Dialog will appear.

In the Field Calculator under Type choose the radio button for String.

The Functions window will re-populate with the new String Functions.

The calculation expressions will be developed in the bottom window pane.

Click once on Mid () in the Functions list.

Make sure the cursor is between the parentheses after Mid in the window.

Click once on PIN, then type a comma, then type an 11, 4.

Then click OK.

The Pin_label field is populated with the appropriate string of characters from the Pin

field.

Choose Editor again and choose Save Edits and then choose Stop Editing.

To label with the new field right-click on the layer and go to properties.

Choose the Labels tab.

In the field drop-down choose Pin_Label and then click OK.